

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 11, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. POLK made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 401.]

*The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the petition of James G. Clarke, praying compensation for his services as chargé d'affaires of the United States at Belgium, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

The petitioner seems to have acted as private secretary to the minister resident of the United States at Brussels, and, in that capacity, to have taken charge of the legation during the absence of the minister, from September 24, 1856, to the 11th June, 1857, at which time the minister resident resigned.

The petitioner continued to discharge the aforesaid functions until the 27th September, 1858, at which date a minister resident of the United States arrived at Brussels, and his services terminated.

As the petitioner does not seem to have been appointed or acknowledged by the government of the United States in any diplomatic capacity, there appears no legal obligation to make him compensation, yet in consideration that, from the time that the American minister resigned, on the 11th June, 1857, to the 27th September, 1858, at which date his successor arrived at Brussels, the petitioner appears to have performed the functions referred to faithfully and creditably, the committee deem it proper to award him compensation at the rate per annum of the salary of a secretary of legation at Belgium, in full compensation and indemnity for his services.

They therefore report herewith a bill in accordance with these opinions.

